

# PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH WRITES TO N.F.L. LEADERS

Hanoi, May 8, 1968

To President Nguyen Huu Tho,  
To Members of the N.F.L. Central Committee,

**U**NDER the clearheaded leadership of the N.F.L. our South Viet Nam compatriots, fighters and cadres, have, since early Spring this year, been mounting the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings with great efficiency and winning tremendous victories.

Upholding revolutionary heroism and combining armed attacks, political struggle and propaganda among enemy troops, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have:

— inflicted defeats on the 1.2 million enemy troops including the over 500,000 strong U.S. forces;

— fought victorious engagements both in the towns and the countryside, and launched skilful attacks on enemy bases, airfields, ports, storages and communication lines;

— liberated many more vast and densely populated areas;

— been engaged in the fighting while building up their strength which accounts for the unusually vigorous growth of both their military and political forces;

— done equally very well in implementing the policy of the N.F.L., the armymen devotedly defending and assisting the people, the people giving the armymen their unwavering love, helping them, and side by side with them fighting the aggressors.

For the last few days the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, from the Quang Tri — Thua Thien area to the Point of Ca Mau, from the plains to the highlands, have again launched concerted onslaughts on the U.S. puppet troops, recording considerable successes and inflicting on the enemy heavier defeats and increasing their perplexity and confusion.

So all the armed forces and the entire people of heroic South Viet Nam—old and young, women and men, the Kinh people (main ethnic group in Viet Nam—Ed.) and the Highland people, the main forces as well as the regional army and the militia and guerrilla forces, have all achieved outstanding feats of arms. The whole South Viet Nam is fighting successfully, gaining more strength and winning greater victories in the process.

I feel greatly gratified at this state of things, and request you, Mr. President and the members of the N.F.L.C.C., to convey my most affectionate wishes and warmest congratulations to all our South Viet Nam countrymen and to all the officers and men of the patriotic armed forces on all battlefields. I send my greetings to all patriotic personalities, all elders, all armymen's foster mothers. I commend the youth and young pioneers' zeal in resisting U.S. aggression and saving the country, their numerous exploits.

The victories won by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people are tremendous and all-round ones which fill with joy our people across the country and our friends on all the five continents. The resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation put up by our entire people is making and is heading steadily for complete victory.

Our people have peace at heart. But there cannot be genuine peace unless there is independence and freedom. Peace will come soon after the U.S. imperialists have put an end to their war of aggression in Viet Nam, brought home all their troops, and made up their minds to leave the Vietnamese people to decide themselves their own destiny.

At present the U.S. imperialists are suffering severe setbacks in Viet Nam, and are finding themselves in a state of isolation and confusion, both at home and in the international arena. Yet they keep acting very obstinately and cunningly. They keep talking "peace" while making war.

Our compatriots and fighters, therefore, must strengthen their unity, heighten their vigilance and stiffen their resolve to fight and to win, develop their strong points and make good their weaknesses, brave all hardships and sacrifice, fight without let-up and on all battlefields, in order to win still bigger victories.

With North and South Viet Nam being of one mind and consulting each other in wiping out the enemy to save the country, the U.S. aggressors' complete defeat is left in no doubt.

The liberation of our South Viet Nam compatriots is a certainty.

It is beyond any doubt that our Fatherland — Viet Nam — will enjoy complete independence and freedom, and will be peacefully reunified.

Forward!

Our total triumph is an assurance double sure!  
Please accept my cordial greetings and my "determination-to-win" salutations.

HO CHI MINH

# VIETNAM COURIER

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1968

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5th Year

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South Viet Nam Since May 4, 1968:

## P.L.A.F. ATTACKS FLARE UP AGAIN

- Street Fighting in Many Quarters of Saigon
- A Puppet Battalion Wiped Out in Downtown Area
- 58 Towns and Urban Centres, 30 Airfields and Many Depots (Totalling 122 Enemy Military Bases and Positions) Stormed.

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North Viet Nam May 8, 1968:

## 2,900th U.S. PLANE DOWNED

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## MINISTER XUAN THUY LEAVES FOR PARIS

**M**INISTER Xuan Thuy, representative of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, left Hanoi for Paris on May 7 for official talks with the representative of the U.S. Government scheduled for May 10, 1968.

Minister Xuan Thuy was accompanied by: Ho Van Lau, Ambassador, Adviser to the Minister; Nguyen Minh Vy, Adviser to the Minister; Nguyen Thanh Le, Adviser and Spokesman for the Minister; and Phan Hien, Adviser to the Minister.



Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh (right) seeing off Minister Xuan Thuy to Paris talks

## BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF Mr XUAN THUY

**M**R Xuan Thuy was born on September 4, 1912 into a family of patriots in the outskirts of Hanoi.

In the period prior to the August 1945 Revolution, as a staunch fighter for Viet Nam's independence and freedom, he was arrested and jailed many times by the then authorities.

After the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (September 2, 1945), he held the following offices:

- Deputy to the National

Assembly, Vice President of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

— President Member and Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

— Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

— President of the Viet Nam Journalists' Association...

— He was head of the delegations of Vietnamese mass organizations to many international conferences and deputy head of the Delegation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to the 1968 Geneva Conference on Laos.

At present, he is Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party's Central Committee member of the President of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee, deputy to the National Assembly, Minister of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

ON the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Karl Marx, the founder of scientific socialism, the Political Bureau of the C.C. of the Viet Nam Workers' Party issued instructions pointing to the tremendous successes achieved by revolution in the world and in Viet Nam since the founding of Marxism-Leninism and since it has been following the correct Marxist-Leninist line.

"Withstanding all trials," the Polit Bureau said, "Marxism-Leninism has proved its vigorous vitality as an invincible weapon of the working class and oppressed people. It is the highest peak of human wisdom in the present era. It has become the ideology of thousands of millions on this earth and is guiding the worldwide struggle of the working class and toiling masses against imperialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism."

On May 3, 1968 Hanoi papers devoted almost the bulk of their space to articles on Marx and Marxism-Leninism.

Nhan Dan wrote in its editorial: "The working class and people of Viet Nam are deeply grateful to Karl Marx, the founder of scientific communism. The spirit from patriotism to Marxism-Leninism, which embarked Comrade Ho Chi Minh, the first Vietnamese Communist, is also the path of national salvation which leads our people from darkness to light, the path on which our people have found the glowing truth and miraculous strength to win victory. Through nearly four decades of heroic struggle since its foundation, our Party has remained unswervingly loyal to

## KARL MARX'S 150th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Marxism-Leninism and resolutely fought to defend the purity of this ideology against rightist and leftist opportunism, old and new revisionism, dogmatism and cliquism. Applying Marxism-Leninism to the actual conditions of Viet Nam, our Party has drawn a correct line for the Vietnamese revolution in every stage. This has been the factor number one which guarantees its victory. Under the clearheaded leadership of the Party leded by the comrade and beloved President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese working class and people have unceasingly stepped up their revolutionary struggle. The success of the August Revolution in 1954 led to the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first of the first socialist democratic state in South-East Asia, and heralded the collapse of old colonialism in Asia and Africa. The nine-year war of resistance to French colonialism which ended with the great Dien Bien Phu victory, liberated a half of the country and made it possible for North Viet Nam to switch over to the people's national democratic revolution to socialist revolution. Our Party has been a satisfactory answer to the problem of class struggle and proletarian dictatorship in a poor, backward agrarian country just freed from

colonialism and feudalism during the period of transition to socialism by passing the period of capitalist development. At present, the working class and people of our country are doing their best in their resistance against U.S. aggression and in the completion of the people's national democratic revolution in the North. The revolution in the South is a revolution and socialist construction in South Viet Nam is defeating the war of aggression waged by the U.S. imperialists with half a million American soldiers, nearly 60,000 satellite mercenaries and over half a million puppet troops armed with most up-to-date weapons and other war means.

All these victories mark the triumph of militant Marxism-Leninism in Viet Nam. "The commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Karl Marx is of paramount significance to us. It vigorously stimulates our Party, army and people to vie with one another in bringing to complete success our struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation and our socialist revolution. The best way to express our gratitude to Karl Marx is to develop further the versatile strength of

Marxism-Leninism by carrying through all our tasks according to the slogan 'Everything for our victory over the U.S. aggressors'.

"Marking Karl Marx's birth anniversary, we must step up the studying of Marxism-Leninism, making the study of Marxist-Leninist classical works a routine task for our cadres and Party members. At the same time, it is necessary to push up the theoretical researches and summing up of the substantial experience gained by the Vietnamese revolution.

"Revolutionary practice generally gives rise to new problems. The problems of class struggle and proletarian dictatorship during the transitional period to socialism, the clear struggle between the two paths (socialist and capitalist) and the question 'who will win' in the North, the three revolutions of production, technical revolution and ideological and cultural revolution, the fulfilling of our role as great rear to the great front in the war of resistance against U.S. aggression for national salvation, the strengthening of international solidarity on the basis of proletarian internationalism, etc., are all burning questions which our cadres and Party members must discuss, grasp and settle satisfactorily. We must imbue ourselves with the thoroughgoing revolutionary spirit and creativeness of Marxism-Leninism, maintain our independent thinking, closely combine theory with practice and creatively apply Marxism-Leninism to the realities of our country in order to better grasp and correctly solve the aforesaid problems."

We have time and again stressed that the bombing of the D.R.V.N., an independent and sovereign country, is a crime and an offence against all norms of international law, and that the United States has no right whatsoever to expect a premium in return for an act to it must be unconditionally cease the air raids and all other acts of war on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N.

The representation of the D.R.V.N. went to Paris with a sincere desire—that of his government and his people—to seek for early restoration of peace in Viet Nam in the context of the respect of the national rights of the Vietnamese people. This is possible only in condition that the 4 points of the D.R.V.N. and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. will be taken as basis for settlement. The National Salvation Manifesto of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces points in the same direction. The success of the coming official talks in Paris between the D.R.V.N. and the U.S.A. thus largely depends upon the American side. For the time being, one has to question the question of the rulers in Washington. Taken into account the official talk between the D.R.V.N. Government proposing successively to stop official talks against the American aggressors and their puppets.

As regards the U.S. air war against the D.R.V.N., indeed, the setbacks suffered by the U.S. in South Viet Nam as well as North Viet Nam and the mounting popular protests against the U.S. and the world have forced the Washington rulers to permit a "conditional" cessation of the bombing. Yet this is an item of business, a side deal importance on the agenda of the Paris official talks.

However things will not turn out as the Washington rulers want them to. President Ho Chi Minh once

compared the imperialists to a block of stone, which in its nature is "inert" but can be easily moved by the joint efforts of all.

The Vietnamese people will do everything for their independence and for the restoration of genuine peace in

Viet Nam. Universal and unanimous support for their struggle will not fail to have beneficial impact on the future course of the Paris talks.

The bloc of stone—i.e., U.S. imperialism—will undoubtedly be put in motion.

## Hanoi Press Opinion

### DIEN BIEN PHU TRADITION

FOURTEEN years ago, at Dien Bien Phu, we defeated not only the French colonialists but also the American interventionists who were hatching the scheme to turn the French colonial war into U.S. war of aggression. Eisenhower, the then U.S. president gave to the U.S. armed forces orders to save Dien Bien Phu by hook or by crook. The Washington Post admitted in 1954 that the fall of Dien Bien Phu was a ignominious defeat for the U.S.

Unable to make up their minds to defeat, the U.S. imperialists followed the leading of the dirty war of aggression against our country. They successively waged the French colonial war into U.S. war of aggression in South Viet Nam. A "special war" force of 500,000 strong and 600,000 U.S. troops were sent to South Viet Nam. They have embarked on a costly war in terms of lives and money. Dien Bien Phu sealed the fate of old French colonialism. New Dien Bien Phus are awaiting U.S. neo-colonialism.

Nhan Dan  
May 7, 1968

### NEO-FASCISM WILL BE DOOMED

TWENTY years ago, on May 9, 1945, the last gunshots of World War II died down on the European battlefields. Three months later, their Japanese confederates capitulated unconditionally. For this common victory won by civilized mankind, the mass media went to the Soviet army and people.

Twenty years after the defeat of German, Italian and Japanese fascists, a life-and-death struggle is taking place in Viet Nam between their reactionaries and the most revolutionary forces of mankind which the Vietnamese people, the vanquished of the American imperialists, are leading to a historical necessity, an inevitable outcome.

Nhan Dan  
May 9, 1968

VIET NAM COURIER

## THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

UP TO MAY 8, 1968

### 2,900 U.S. Planes Downed

THE 2,900th U.S. plane, an A4 Skyhawk, was shot down in Ha Tinh province on May 8, 1968 at 11.10 a.m.

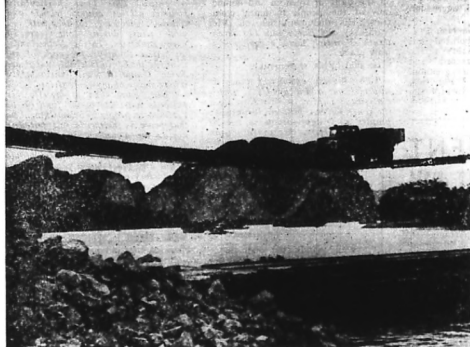
Topping the list of provinces and areas which have downed the greatest number of enemy planes are Quang Binh (435), Nghe An (356), Thanh Hoa (211), Hanoi (252), Hai Phong (210). Four other areas have exceeded the 100 mark.

The last 100 planes were grounded within 52 days and included chiefly F-4IIA jets downed.

variable-geometry bombers, 38 Phantoms, 41 A-1H Intruders, which are the most expensive planes ever used by the enemy air force.

In this period, it is also Quang Binh which sets the record with 39 planes of 29 which were downed in April, and 12 in May hunting.

In the same period, peasants and workers' militia units had to their credit 24 supersonic



## Somewhere in Quang Binh Province

A few months ago, a lorry driver told me a story. An old story indeed, but he was so moved, relating it with such emotion and feeling, that the enemy is doing carpet-bombing here and if you were hit, you would die this lorry!

"That night I was alone on the road. It was raining. Reaching a place near the bridge at V., I bumped into it. For all my money, I could not get through. The wheels skidded in an almost liquid mud, but my lorry didn't advance an inch. Having exhausted all the means, I resigned myself to firing a shot in the air for help. In a matter of minutes' worry or so people dashed to the spot from a neighbouring hamlet. I had told them my trouble, one of them, undoubtedly a woman, said to me:

"All right. Now go to the shelter over there and have a rest. We'll call you when we have fixed up the rut."

"Let me do my share," I replied.

"Since then every time I meet with difficulties or found myself in danger I thought of that night and off I went, the lorry driver concluded."

In this province of Quang Binh V., hamlet is no exception. As it is located between a ferry landing—stage and a culvert and a North-South road runs through it, American aircraft bomb it round the clock. Three years back it had plenty of dwellings with red-tiled roofs. Now these have made room for straw huts of which well over a hundred have been rebuilt seven times.

Pain wrung Ha Cuck's heart when, for the first time, he saw his house, a very nice one, smashed to pieces by a bomb. This did not in the least prevent him from rushing to the road which was to be repaired as soon as possible. On another occasion, while leaving the hamlet in a lorry convey that he had to find safety, his house was on fire. "Then I was utterly perplexed," he confided later on. "Our house, our grans—My wife was ill and children to young! I found it impossible to leave my worries there. I went to the hamlet where I had committed a crime against our compatriots in the South. There in a little less than a minute later the Yankees dropped bombs on the

very spot where his convey had been parked. His Cuck's house was five times. His wife died three hours after giving birth to a child. In his private life he has had to overcome innumerable difficulties. Despite all these, people see him everywhere when help is needed either to supreme an unexploded bomb, refuel a sunk ferry-load or carry luggage across a river under the intense fire of the enemy.

LIKE a hen defending her little ones, the inhabitants of hamlet V. stand resolute in defiance of any sacrifice, to keep open the traffic on the section of the road which leads straight to the south, the big front of our battle against the American invaders, for national salvation.

R.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much criticism and comment in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this. We are, however, and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to improve our paper more efficiently in future.

ful, let me take the lead. We must get out of here any how!"

With Tam's consent, Phan Van Thai went ahead. The convoy moved on playing, with American planes which dropped a great quantity of flares, a tragic blindfold. The marauding planes obviously switched the lights on. They were taken in. The rest proceeded on its way, unscathed.

After parking their vehicles, the drivers fanned out in search of Phan Van Thai, whom they believed to be dead or at least seriously wounded. But soon Thai appeared, quite alive, but alive, quite alive. He had succeeded in giving the marauding planes a slip.

Questioned on the motive of his action, Phan Van Thai replied quite candidly that he had thought it was better to lose one than eight cars.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● Ngo Mau, ambassador to Cuba and envoy of the D.R.V.N. Government has recently visited Mexico with a view to developing relations between both countries. He was received by Gustavo Ordaz, President of Mexico, and Antonio Carillo Flores, Foreign Minister.

● Up to now, Thanh Hoa province has increased the fish-rearing areas by 50 per cent compared with the corresponding period of last year. Breeding of fish strains is developing vigorously.

● With the assistance of various colleges and secondary technical schools and of the leading organs in various factories and services, 24,000 workers and cadres in North Viet Nam have been able to attend on-the-job courses (doing their routine work except in examination periods). This arrangement has made it possible up to now for 3,000 workers and cadres to successfully complete their higher education and for 4,000 others their secondary vocational education.

● At present, all the medical stations at village level are being improved (the 17th parallel) are in a position to give anti-shock for this. They are also minor surgical operations. There are from 1 to 5 medical workers in a little less than a minute later the Yankees dropped bombs on the

VIET NAM COURIER





# U.S. Prestige on the Wane

In spite of the spectacular deployment of a half-a-million-strong expeditionary force supported by more than half-a-million puppet and satellite mercenaries, Washington is still beaten without let-up in South Viet Nam. After the failure of two dry-season strategic counter-offensives, the U.S. command

The Viet Nam war has exerted a disastrous influence on the international position of the U.S. Washington comes up against the energetic opposition of the socialist countries, the national liberation movement and the world's peoples, including the American people, and against the growing competition and insubordination of other capitalist countries.

This "free world" of which it has made its game-

The small nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America, regarded by the U.S. as pariah-nations, raise their heads. A Bombay paper wrote, "What is happening in Viet Nam is sickening and is bound to make the U.S.A. a deeply hated nation for decades to come." Cambodia severely condemns U.S. pro-

In the whole world, no day has passed without meetings, demonstrations or protest actions against Washington. In countries having diplomatic relations with the U.S., L.B. Johnson's effigies are dragged on street pavements, U.S. sacred national mission while contributing to the world's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

\* In *The Arrogance of Power*, by J.W. Fulbright.

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He added, "The American revolution is still a long way off. We have many long years of bitter struggle and hard work ahead of us. But we want to know that your revolution and your victory over aggression is helping us; it is an inspiration for us. In this sense, your struggle for liberation is also liberating the American people."

The following days (May 5, 6, 7) the P.L.A.F. shells Cua Viet port, the U.S. position in Con Tien region, and attacked the enemy in three localities less than 10 km northwest and northeast of Dong Ha, causing nearly 85 casualties to the G.I.'s and puppet troops.

Further southeast, Hoi An is the provincial capital of Quang Nam, (in which the P.L.A.F. took 58 actions on May 5).

destroyed or damaged about 50 vehicles including 14 tanks and armoured carriers, and downed 2 choppers.

## Background to Dr. Martin Luther King's Assassination

A gunshot on the night of April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, in the southern part of the United States roused to the action 22 million American Negroes suffering from racial discrimination. American Negroes in Washington, New York and other places rose up as one man to

**M**EMPHIS, where Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, is a rural town in the southern part of the United States, on the bank of the Mississippi river. Here white racism is deep-rooted among the land-owning class, secret terror organizations are rampant, and the Negroes not only

Following last summer's protest movement of the Negroes, an investigation commission on popular riots, appointed by President Johnson, completed a 350,000-word

those in Detroit, Mich. (July 23 to 30), and New Jersey (July 12 to 19). The most violent one of the year, are only the offshoots of daily discontent, triggered off by police brutality.

And not only that. In his New Year message, the words "Great Society"—the anti-poverty slogan—had disappeared.

war of aggression in Vietnam on the life of American citizens. In face of the dollar crisis which has shake

are allowed. In New York state, because health allowances have been cut, nearly one million needy people have had to go without medicare. On the other hand, in his March 31 speech about "limited bombing," President Johnson declared that 5.1 more billion dollars would

**Programs of THE VOICE OF VIET NAM**  
*THE VOICE OF VIET NAM is broadcasting in English daily:*

THE VOICE OF VIET NAM is broadcasting in English daily:

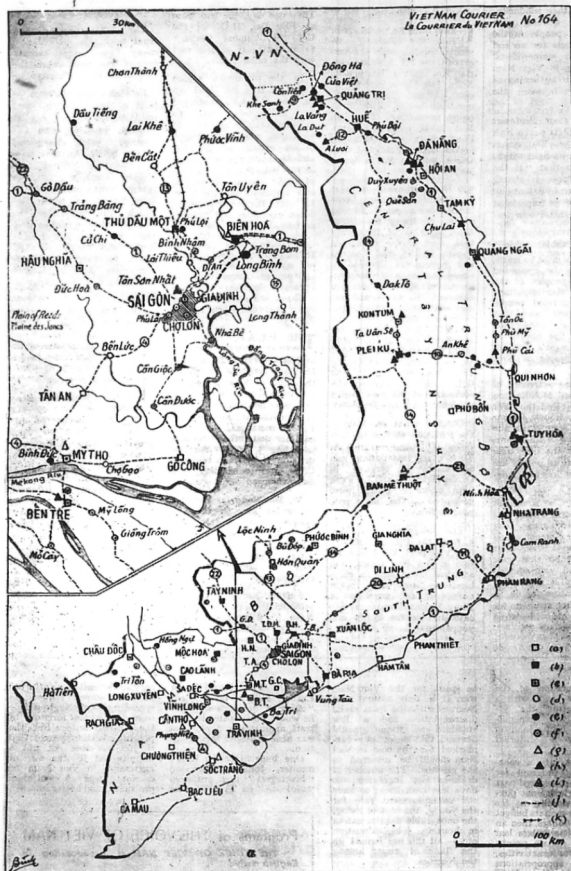
**FOR NORTHERN EUROPE**  
— At 4.20 p.m. (EST) that is, 21.20 (GMT), on

19 metres, 15,330 RCa.

# ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

## P.L.A.F. ATTACKS FLARE UP AGAIN

■ Street Fighting in Many Quarters of Saigon ■ A Puppet Battalion Wiped Out in Downtown Area ■ 58 Towns and Urban Centers, 30 Airfields and Many Depots (Totalling 122 Enemy Military Bases and Positions) Stormed.



P.L.A.F. MAIN ACTIONS IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a) Provincial capital                                | g) Airfield                      |
| b) — — — pounded by P.L.A.F.                         | h) Airfield pounded              |
| c) — — — attacked by infantry                        | i) Airfield attacked by infantry |
| d) Provincial or district capital, or other locality | j) Road                          |
| e) — — — — — pounded                                 | k) Railway                       |
| f) — — — — — attacked by infantry                    |                                  |

THE offensive launched by the people's forces since the end of January last was vigorously stepped up in the week following Labour Day, chiefly after May 4. As announced in our last issue, at least 122 cities, towns, airfields, rear-bases, logistic bases, H.Q.'s and C.P.'s of the enemy were stormed or pounded by P.L.A.F. infantry and artillery. The map opposite will give an idea of the great activities of the people's forces.

IN Saigon and periphery, since the small hours of May 5 the P.L.A.F. rained shells on vital positions of the enemy war set-up such as the Directorate General of Police, administrative offices, the old and new harbours piled up with military goods, the T.V. and radio stations of the U.S. army. Infantry units supported by the local population penetrated into 7 out of 9 quarters of Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh.

An enemy Ranger battalion sent to a locality near Phu Tho race course (between the 5th and 6th town quarters) was wiped out by the P.L.A.F., who thus for the first time put out of action an enemy battalion in the city. Another para battalion was routed on May 6 at an important crossroads in Cholon. As the puppet troops could not stand the onslaught of the P.L.A.F., the U.S. command hurriedly sent U.S. reinforcements to the city. Enemy tanks and artillery destroyed many town quarters, causing heavy losses in lives and property to the population. The general commanding the police of the puppet administration was seriously wounded while his substitute, a colonel, was killed.

Up to May 9, the battle was still raging in many quarters of the city. The P.L.A.F. held control of several quarters. The quarters in which the U.S. Embassy and U.S.I.S. are located was attacked on May 7.

In the suburbs, Tan Son Nhut airbase, stormed by the guerrillas on May 6 and 7, was closed to traffic and the colonel commanding it killed. West of Cholon, the radar station of Phu Lam was assaulted. On May 5, Nha Be, outer-harbour of Saigon, was shelled: two fuel depots were gutted by fire.

Northeast of Saigon, Bien Hoa — Long Binh, the most important logistic base of the U.S. in South Viet Nam, came under P.L.A.F. fire.

16 km north of Saigon, a battalion of puppet Division 5 was decimated on the night of May 4.

Cu Chi and Dong Du townlets about 30 km northwest of Saigon and base of U.S. Division 25, was stormed on May 5 while Hau Nghia provincial capital, 35 km west-northwest of Saigon, fell under the P.L.A.F. control.

IN the Mekong Delta one puppet battalion was wiped out, another badly mauled, and 13 vessels were sunk in an engagement with the P.L.A.F. on May 1 and 2 at 100 km south-west of Saigon. The P.L.A.F. hammered at many provincial capitals such as My Tho, Ben Tre, Vinh Long, Cao Lanh, Chau Doc, Moc Hoa and scores of district capitals and sub-sector C.P.'s. The U.S. base at Binh Duc, 6 km west of My Tho, was shelled on May 5 while a battalion of puppet Division 9 was

(Continued page 7)